



February 22, 2006

JTW

## IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Philip E. NELSON et al.

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR STERILIZING FOOD CONTAINERS

Serial No.: 10/658 098

Group: 1744

Confirmation No.: 9965

Filed: September 9, 2003

Examiner: Sean E. Conley

Atty. Docket No.: PU113

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

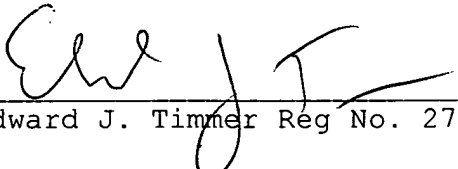
Sir:

In response to office action of January 23, 2006, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the Group I claims 1-7 drawn to a method for treating a container with chlorine dioxide gas.

Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the non-elected claims of Group II at a later date by way of one or more divisional applications or other means.

Applicants believe the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and action to that end is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

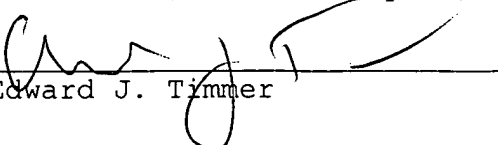
  
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## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence and enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 22, 2006.

  
Edward J. Timmer